

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8317

INFO USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNIDO, EGEN, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH POSITION AT UNIDO

1. EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED ON ANDRE LEROUX OF QUAI'S UN SECTION TO DISCUSS FRENCH ACTIONS AT UNIDO II. LEROUX, A MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION AT LIMA, SAID THAT THEY HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH THE LDC'S, AND HAD BEEN GIVEN CONSIDERABLE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT IN APPLYING THAT GUIDELINE. FRANCE, HE CONTINUED, IS CURRENTLY PURSUING A POLICY OF DEMONSTRATING THE GREATEST POSSIBLE OPENNESS TOWARD THE CONCERNS OF THE LDCS. IN VIEW OF THIS, THE FRENCH DELEGATION FELT THAT STRICT ADHERENCE TO THE GROUP B POSITION PRESENTED AT VIENNA WOULD HAVE BEEN MET BY INTRANSIGENCE ON THE PART OF THE LDCS, AND WOULD HAVE LED TO AN UNPRODUCTIVE CONFRONTATION.

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2. IN ADDITION, LEROUX INDICATED A DESIRE ON THE PART

OF THE FRENCH TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF GOOD WILL FOR "OTHER CONFERENCES" SCHEDULED FOR THE NEAR FUTURE. LATER REFERRING TO A NEWSPAPER STORY WHICH STATED THAT THE FRENCH AFFIRMATIVE VOTE AT LIMA WAS A TRADE-OFF FOR A SUCCESSFUL PREPCON, HE ALLOWED THAT THERE WAS PROBABLY SOME TRUTH TO THAT CLAIM.

3. LEROUX STATED THAT THE PREVAILING FRENCH VIEW IS THAT THE CASTING OF NEGATIVE VOTES ON OBJECTIONABLE PARAGRAPHS, EVEN THOUGH ACCOMPANIED BY AN OVERALL AFFIRMATIVE VOTE, AFFORDS SUFFICIENT PROTECTION AGAINST ANY SUBSEQUENT LEGAL CLAIMS WHICH MIGHT ARISE, AND ADDED THAT THE FRENCH SAW NO NEED TO SUBMIT WRITTEN RESERVATIONS EXPANDING ON THEIR TWO NEGATIVE VOTES AT LIMA. HE DID CONCEDE THAT CERTAIN ELEMENTS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND THE QUAI'S LEGAL SECTION, CONTINUE TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT THE LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF THIS APPROACH.

4. LEROUX MENTIONED IN PASSING THAT THE FRG DELEGATION HAD PREMATURELY LET IT BE KNOWN THAT GROUP B WAS WILLING TO TAKE UP, AT THE 31ST UNGA, THE QUESTION OF SPECIALIZED AGENCY STATUS FOR UNIDO. THE LDCS, AWARE OF GROUP B FLEXIBILITY ON THIS POINT, INSISTED THAT CONSIDERATION OF THIS QUESTION BE MOVED UP TO THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION. BECAUSE OF GERMAN "MALADROITNESS", SAID LEROUX, GROUP B HAD "NOTHING TO SELL" ON THIS ISSUE.

5. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THE FRENCH ARE SHOWING INCREASING TOLERANCE TOWARD THE ECONOMIC ASPIRATIONS OF THE LDCS AS EXPRESSED THROUGH DOCUMENTS SUCH AS THE CERDS AND THE LIMA DECLARATION. EXCEPT FOR THE QUAI LEGAL SECTION AND THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, THE FRENCH SEEM RELATIVELY UNCONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE CUMULATIVE BUILD-UP OF A NEW BODY OF CUSTOMARY INTERNATIONAL LAW, STEMMING FROM THE APPROVAL OF A SUCCESSION OF RESOLUTIONS, DECLARATIONS, ETC. ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES. THEY TAKE THE APPROACH THAT LEGAL OBLIGATIONS CANNOT BE CREATED THROUGH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADOPTION OF AN ENTIRE DOCUMENT, AS LONG AS OBJECTIONS ARE REGISTERED ON SPECIFIC POINTS. OF MUCH GREATER IMPORTANCE TO THE FRENCH IS THE NEED TO DEMONSTRATE THEMSELVES RECEPTIVE TO LDC INITIATIVES AND INTERESTS, PARTICULARLY WITH A VIEW, AT THE MOMENT, TO MAINTAINING A CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE FOR THE PREPCON AND FOR GISCARD'S UPCOMING VISIT TO ALGERIA.

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